

APPROVED

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC)

Web site: <http://depts.washington.edu/wpa/abgc/>

The ABGC is also closely monitoring the WSDOT SR520 project for impacts to the Washington Park Arboretum. Please see

<http://depts.washington.edu/wpa/520.htm>

*Joint effort of the Arboretum Foundation, Seattle Parks, and the University of Washington (UW)
September 12, 2007*

Voting

Members:

Arboretum Foundation

- Paige Miller, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director
- Neal Lessenger, Substitute for John Johnston, Arboretum Foundation President

City of Seattle

- Donald Harris, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Property & Acquisition Services Manager

University of Washington

- Iain Robertson, University of Washington Professor

Washington State

- Dave Towne, Governor's Representative

Absent:

City of Seattle

- Jack Collins, Mayoral Representative
- Vacant position to be appointed by Seattle Mayor

University of Washington

- Theresa Doherty, University of Washington, Assistant Vice President for Regional Affairs
- David Maberley, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG) Director

Others:

- David Graves, Seattle Parks, Project Manager
- Ramona Hickey, University of Washington, College of Forest Resources
- Fred Hoyt, UWBG, Facilities & Grounds Manager
- Elizabeth Loudon, UWBG, Education and Outreach Manager

Staff:

- Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Standing Committees

Funding Requests to State Legislature: John (Arboretum Foundation), Jack (City), Dave T (Washington State)

Naming Recognition Policy: Paige (Arboretum Foundation), Donald (City), Teresa (UW)

Mission Statement: Kathleen Pierce (Arboretum Foundation), Donald (City), Elizabeth (UW)

SR520 Mediation Committee: Paige Miller, representing both the ABGC and Arboretum Foundation

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 am. The August 1 minutes and September 12 agenda were approved.

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG) Updates

Pacific Connections Gardens: Fred reported that a permit issue that developed recently was quickly solved. Staff from the City's Department of Planning and Development (DPD) notified City and UW staff that a master use permit is

required because the project involves building in a wildlife area. During previous discussions and review, this permit had not been discussed by DPD. The permit has now been secured and the project is moving ahead.

Andy stated that the construction documents are nearly ready to bid and will be done by electronic bid process. Bids will be opened on October 3, with the bid winner starting work on October 17. The base bid amount is \$1.3 million. A great deal of work has already been completed by Parks staff so that the bid winner can hit the ground running: the Cascadia Trail is already blazed, the trees have been removed and the logs chipped into mulch to be used later in the project, and staff are accumulating the needed plants from Wells Median Nursery so the contractor doesn't have to spend time doing these steps. The bid calls for 140 construction business days, and the project is scheduled for completion at the end of April 2008. The ribbon cutting is scheduled for June 2008 and Paige and others are working on a strategy for that event.

Next week staff will begin moving the hollies and doing the grading for the holly relocation project. Donald believes this is a media event; Elizabeth will work with Andy and others to coordinate this.

Paige reported that the groundbreaking ceremony for the Pacific Connections project will be held on Thursday, October 11, at 11:30 a.m. This will be a festive event, with a short program. 1,500 invitations have been sent and UW President Mark Emmert and Seattle Mayor Nickels will be there. Starbucks is providing coffee and pastries.

Donald reported that he checked with Parks' finance people recently and \$56,000 in maintenance and operations funds may be approved in the next budget for this project. Paige reported that the Arboretum Foundation has now raised all the money for Phase I. Phase II includes completion of the Cascadia garden, the Chile garden infrastructure, and possibly the Chile plantings. The estimate for Phase II is \$5 million, which includes an endowment to pay for maintenance and operations. The UW has funded plant expeditions; however, the Arboretum Foundation does not yet know the cost for the expeditions. A big challenge at this time is scheduling the seeding/growing/propagating of plants for gardens that won't be installed for another two years.

Japanese Garden Entry Update: Andy reported this project is going well, with 65% construction documents in October. The last public meeting is scheduled for September 25.

Japanese Garden Entry Project Fundraising: Paige gave an update on these efforts. Several days before the meeting, a potential six-figure donor toured the Japanese Garden. Afterwards, Paige gave a Powerpoint presentation that was well received by the donor. The Japanese Garden Advisory Council is working to raise \$300,000 and Paige is working with other donors to raise needed funds. There is a public fundraising event on October 1. The City contributed \$450,000 from the Pro Park Levy Fund. Donald commented that this is a good joint effort for fundraising.

Iain commented that the building design [which includes restrooms] is beautiful with a meeting room that looks into the Japanese Garden. Neal asked why the current entry structure was built without restrooms. Andy answered that when the entry was built, there were restrooms at the nearby Washington Park Playfield.

Other Accomplishments: Andy reported that the Graham Visitors Center HVAC system is being upgraded today. It was also noted that the signage boulders have been installed at the Arboretum entrances.

Donald observed that implementation of the Arboretum's Master Plan has been a long time coming and it is exciting to see the first of the projects moving ahead.

SR520 Update

ABGC/Arboretum Foundation Report: Paige reported that the Mediation Committee, assembled by the State legislature, met on September 11, from 1:00-7:00 pm at the Museum of History and Industry. The Committee has 34 members and two mediators. Paige is representing both the ABGC and Arboretum Foundation at the table. Many of those at the September 11 meeting talked passionately about the Arboretum and that it is an important asset to protect.

Those present talked about their interests in the SR520 project, and the committee's protocols, goals, and how to operate. Paige stated that she pointed out a huge problem to the Committee that is not yet resolved regarding the 6-lane alternative. This alternative is described as 2 high occupancy vehicle lanes and 4 general purpose lanes. The issue is future light rail running along SR520 — would it run on converted rails or would rails be added outside the proposed 6-lane design. A possibility of having 8 lanes in the future surprised many in the group. Now the Committee is working to determine the exact meaning of the legislation that designated it to work on the mediation. Representative Ed Murray, sponsor of the legislation, has stated that he meant 6 lanes, and not 6 lanes + 2 future lanes. Mediation Committee representatives from the East Side think the legislation does mean 6 lanes now and 2 in the future. David Graves commented that WSDOT's original drawings show light rail off of the pontoons. Paige will keep the ABGC posted on the outcome of this issue.

This mediation process is scheduled to last for 15 months and is quite involved. Paige will have some additional staff support while she is working on the Mediation Committee.

City Report:

David G reported that he met twice recently with the WSDOT Regulatory Agency Committee Process (RACP) regarding the SR520 project and its impact on the Arboretum. RACP is making slow progress.

UW Report: Theresa was absent and there was no report.

State Legislature

Dave T said the "Funding Requests to State Legislature Committee" (John Johnston, Jack Collins, and Dave) have met once since the last ABGC meeting to identify what the Arboretum needs in State legislature funding over the next two years and have been collecting information from staff. A next step is to prepare written information to hand to legislators. It is very important to get an amount requested in the State budget, and provide tours of the Arboretum and a case statement to the legislators. Dave reminded those present that operation funds must come from the legislature and not the governor and the funding is usually for one-two years and not permanent. Paige recommended that a focus be placed on funding for the Chile Garden.

The Funding Request Committee also met with the UW College of Forest Resources Dean Bare. He is supportive of the Arboretum Foundation taking the lead in lobbying legislators for Arboretum operation funds. The UW will provide support, but is a State agency and cannot lobby the legislature itself. Paige noted that the UW President will be at the Arboretum for the October 11 groundbreaking ceremony. She will lead a strategy to point out the Arboretum's needs to him.

Old/New Business:

Annual Retreat Planning: The retreat is scheduled for Wednesday, November 7, 8 am-1:00 pm at Montlake Community Center. Donald, Paige, Theresa, and David M will organize the retreat and will meet after the October 15 groundbreaking. The format of last year's retreat worked well and will be used as a foundation for this retreat. An effort will be made to invite a broader audience. Please send any retreat suggestions to Donald.

Operations Report: Donald and Fred regularly attend the monthly Operations staff meeting and reported that Seattle Parks' crew chief Rory Denovan, whose crew helps maintain the Arboretum, has accepted a position in Seattle Park's Horticulture Division. He will be missed at the Arboretum.

Azalea Way Project Update: Pathway upgrades are under way.

Montlake Tot Lot: David M is working with a group, "Montlake Moms" who are requesting the Montlake Tot Lot be moved. This would be in conjunction with the new children's arboretum.

Arboretum Weddings: Staff members are working to refine how weddings are scheduled in the Arboretum.

Park Board Tour and Meeting: On October 25, ABGC members will lead the Park Board on a tour of the Arboretum. The Park Board will hold its regular public meeting after the tour in the Graham Visitors Center. Iain will lead the Board on a tour of Pacific Connections and the holly relocation project. Paige will show the Powerpoint presentation she has been showing to donors during the Board's meeting.

New Park Department Superintendent: Mayor Nickels announced Monday that Tim Gallagher, previously Superintendent of Los Angeles County Parks, has been appointed the new superintendent, subject to City Council confirmation.

ABGC Vacancy: Parks staff will check with the Mayor's Boards and Commissions Coordinator to fill the vacant mayoral appointee position. ABGC members suggested a couple of candidates.

Naming Recognition Policy: No report, as this committee hasn't yet met.

Other: Fred reported that Jan Arntz was in a serious car accident this summer and is recovering. Donald reported that Duane Pentilla, Seattle Parks' horticulture manager, died suddenly two weeks ago. He will be greatly missed at Seattle Parks. Both Duane and Jan attended past ABGC retreats.

Next ABGC Meeting: The next meeting is Wednesday, October 12.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded at 10:05.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
David Maberley, ABGC Secretary